

Richards Lighting

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September 1, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Ultra-Wideband, ET Docket 98-153

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on ultra-wideband radio. Our company, Richards Lighting, has been in business here in Huntsville since 1963, and is widely considered to be one of the premier showrooms for residential lighting and design in the United States. My father, Richard Lapidus, began the company, which is now owned and operated by brothers and myself.

I want to address how a key component of UWB technology, the radar features, could be invaluable to those of us in the homebuilding industry who work "in the walls."

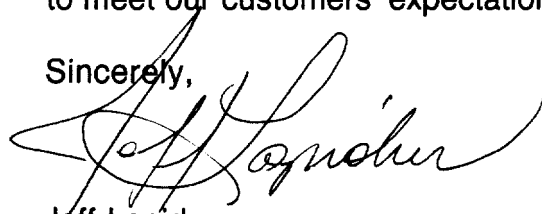
While all things are possible in new construction, remodeling is typically an invasive process without many alternatives. Whether we're talking about lighting, plumbing, home audio or security systems, we share the challenge of meeting our customers desires with as minimal an impact as possible on their homes. Especially in a historic home (read plaster walls), we want to avoid tearing out any more of the wall or ceiling than is necessary to find existing wiring and pipes, and to run new ones.

With a hand-held radar device available to us, we could plan and execute our paths exactly, without any "exploratory surgery." Thus, we minimize the impact on the home, the time, the materials, the cost, and the Cleanup necessary to complete the job.

I strongly urge the FCC to move forward promptly in making a decision to allow the use of ultra-wideband technology. Please do what is necessary to decide those technical matters which will permit its deployment in as timely a manner as possible.

We are eager to take advantage of all that it can offer us, of all it can do to better enable us to meet our customers' expectations.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lapidus
Co-Owner
Richards Lighting

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